THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has processed the proposal of the State Government of Assam for inclusion of Adivasi Tea Tribes, Ahoms, Mattaks, Morans, Koch Rajbangshi and Chutias in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam as per modalities approved by the Government of India on 15/06/1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists.

(c) Additional justification regarding their proposal for inclusion of communities in the ST list of Assam has not been sent by the State Government of Assam.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Use of children for begging

†1974. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that children are used for begging at various places;

(b) whether many people beg with newly born babies in their lap even during scorching summer and severe cold;

(c) whether it is not amounted to severe exploitation of infant children; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such exploitation of children and whether these steps have been successful and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) As per the report of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights "Rapid Appraisal of Children in begging and vending in Delhi" children are used for begging at various places at Delhi. Though the report is limited to Delhi the phenomena of child beggars is also prevalent in other parts of the country. As per media reports as well as from public perception it is a fact that many people beg with infants in their lap.

(c) to (e) The use of young children for begging and cruelty to children causing mental or physical suffering is punishable under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006. The child beggars are also included in the category of 'children in need of care and protection' under the Act. Preventive, care, protection and rehabilitation services are provided for such children under 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme', a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which has been launched recently. Once the Scheme is fully implemented in the country it is expected to create better environment for children who need care and protection.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.